

Federal Personnel Manual System

FPM Letter 591-46

SUBJECT: Nonforeign Area Cost of Living Allowances
for Alaska


RETAIN UNTIL SUPERSEDED

Supersedes FPM Letters 591-42 and 43

Washington, D. C. 20415
April 7, 1983

Heads of Departments and Independent Establishments:

1. Introduction. The Office of Personnel Management has completed its 1982 review of the cost of living allowances paid to eligible employees in Alaska. These allowances are paid under 5 U.S.C. 5941, Executive Order 10,000, as amended, and part 591 of the Office's regulations. This letter announces the results of the review.
2. Effective date of Allowance Rate Adjustments. The effective date of the allowance rates shown in the attachment is the first pay period that begins on or after May 1, 1983.
3. General Information. Agencies are requested to inform employees in the areas concerned of the actions approved by the Office. When doing so you are urged to advise employees that the allowance rates are subject to change, up or down, after each review. It is also important that they understand that the law does not provide for an allowance to compensate for increases in the cost of living, as such. Rather, the law provides for an allowance to compensate for the differences in living costs between Washington, D.C., and the nonforeign area when living costs there are substantially higher than comparable costs in Washington, D.C.


Donald J. Devine
Director

Attachment

**Inquiries:** Allowances and Special Rates Division, Compensation Group, 202-632-8742
or ext. 28742**Code:** 591, Allowances and Differentials Payable in Nonforeign Areas**Distribution:** FPM

This attachment shows the cost of living allowance rates for each allowance category for those locations for which an allowance has been authorized by OPM. It also includes definitions of the allowance categories for use in determining employee eligibility for an allowance. The term "50-mile radius" used in the attachment means 50 miles by road. The allowance rate paid is based on an employee's duty station.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE/ ALLOWANCE CATEGORY	INDEX	ALLOWANCE RATE
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ANCHORAGE and 50-mile radius

<u>Allowance Category</u>	<u>1982 Index</u>	<u>Authorized Allowance Rate</u>
Local Retail/ Private Housing	125.1	25.0%
Local Retail/ Federal Housing	120.8	20.0%
Commissary/PX/ Private Housing	118.7	17.5%
Commissary/PX/ Federal Housing	114.4	15.0%

FAIRBANKS and 50-mile radius

<u>Allowance Category</u>	<u>1982 Index</u>	<u>Authorized Allowance Rate</u>
Local Retail/ Private Housing	124.6	25.0%
Local Retail/ Federal Housing	125.0	25.0%
Commissary/PX/ Private Housing	115.6	15.0%
Commissary/PX/ Federal Housing	116.1	15.0%

JUNEAU and 50-mile radius

<u>Allowance Category</u>	<u>1982 Index</u>	<u>Authorized Allowance Rate</u>
Local Retail/ Private Housing	132.2	25.0%
Local Retail/ Federal Housing	126.6	25.0%
Commissary/PX/ Private Housing	130.9	25.0%
Commissary/PX/ Federal Housing	125.3	25.0%
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<u>All Other Locations In Alaska</u>		
All Employees	-----	25.0%
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Definitions of Allowance Categories

The following definitions of the various allowance categories identified in the tables in this attachment shall be used in determining employee eligibility for the appropriate allowance rate:

<u>Allowance Category</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Local Retail/ Private Housing	This category includes those Federal employees who purchase goods and services from private retail establishments and who occupy housing units that are privately owned or rented. It also includes those employees who do not fall into one of the other allowance categories.
Local Retail/ Federal Housing	This category includes those Federal employees who purchase goods and services from private retail establishments and who occupy, as a result of their Federal civilian employment, housing units that are owned or leased by a Federal agency.
Commissary/PX/ Private Housing	This category includes those Federal employees who have unlimited access to and who use military commissary and exchange facilities stemming from their Federal civilian employment and who occupy housing units that are privately owned or leased.
Commissary/PX/ Federal Housing	This category includes those Federal employees who have unlimited access to and who use military commissary and exchange facilities stemming from their Federal civilian employment and who occupy, as a result of their Federal civilian employment, housing units that are owned or leased by a Federal agency.

Note: Eligibility for access to military commissary and exchange facilities is determined by the appropriate military department. If an employee is furnished commissary/exchange privileges for reasons associated with his or her Federal civilian employment, he or she will have an identification card that authorizes access to the facilities. Possession of such an identification card, i.e., one issued by reason of his or her Federal civilian employment, is sufficient evidence that the employee uses the facilities. Similarly, the fact that an employee who has been authorized to occupy a Federally owned or leased housing unit as a result of his or her Federal civilian employment actually occupies the unit is evidence that the unit is "used".

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